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PRESS RELEASE

Social Dialogue for Better Work Environment

The USAID Business Environment Activity has promoted social dialogue since 2006 to help build a favorable business climate through better communication between employers, trade unions and government authorities,. Social dialogue is a process of negotiation or simply information exchange on issues of common interest relating to economic and social policy. It promotes consensus building and democratic involvement among the main stakeholders in the world of work.

“Our goal has been to help build a favorable business climate through the development of social dialogue between the three partners of labor relations” said Michael Fritz, USAID Macedonia Mission Director. “Social dialogue is not just a simple expression of the three parties’ views. It is a collaborative approach to problem solving that needs to take place at the local level, and should build effective cooperation and trust between the social partners within municipalities” he emphasized.

The USAID Business Environment Activity, in collaboration with the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and the International Labor Organization, held a Seminar on Social Dialogue, focusing on creating infrastructure for social dialogue at the local level. Discussion topics included the implications of international labor standards for collective bargaining; establishment and preparation of action plans for effective social dialogue at the local level.

NOTE TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested nearly \$500 million in Macedonia since 1993. USAID is implementing projects that create jobs, reduce corruption, and prepare Macedonian students for the workforce. These initiatives improve the quality of life and support Macedonia’s transition to a stable and prosperous democracy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>.